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Sri T. NAGI REDDI :—" May I know the percentage of persons who applied to the employment exchanges and who were given employment and the average percentage for the whole year? "

The Hon. Dr. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I should like to have notice, Sir."

Sri PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" Are the Government aware that most of the able-bodied people are not going to the employment exchange offices to register themselves, and if so, what steps the Government propose to take to make it known to them that they should go to the employment exchange and register their names? "

The Hon. Dr. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" If only the hon. Member would go to the employment exchange, he would see for himself the tremendous rush of applications. The only solution seems to me to appeal to the hon. Member to ask all his friends who are unemployed, to register themselves in the employment exchange."

Sri C. V. K. RAO :—" Is there any possibility of securing some relief to these able-bodied unemployed persons before they totally become disabled? "

The Hon. Dr. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" The duty of providing employment for able-bodied men is not a Government duty alone; it is the duty of every industrialist, of every citizen as well as of the Government."

Sri M. NARAYANASWAMI :—" In view of the formation of the separate Andhra State, does the Hon. Minister think that the number will increase, and if so, what plans has he got to meet the situation? "

The Hon. Dr. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" I only hope that in the new State of Andhra there will be less unemployed; and to that extent, any co-operation which the Madras Government can offer will certainly be at the disposal of the new Andhra State."

The Metal Industries, Limited, Shoranur.

* 208-B. *Q.*—Sri K. C. GOPALAN UNNI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Metal Industries, Limited Shoranur, Malabar, has been re-opened; and

(*b*) if so, whether the workers have been paid any subsistence wages during the period of the closure of the factory?

The Hon. Dr. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" (*a*) No, Sir.

" (*b*) Does not arise."

Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" May I know why the Government do not take steps to reopen the factory and have its management under them? "

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THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO:—" The stage to consider that suggestion is not now; now the Government are trying to attach the properties in order to get back the loan amount; but when the factory is brought up for sale, then it will be time to decide who should run it, Government or the present management or any new management."

SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI:—" As the factory is still closed, will the Government consider the question of a subsistence wage for the workers?"

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO:—" The factory at the present moment is closed. Now the Government cannot reopen the factory because the assets have to be brought up for sale, and then it can be decided as to who should run it."

DR. K. B. MENON:—" May I know how many skilled labourers and how many unskilled labourers are out of employment on this account?"

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO:—" I want notice, Sir."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN:—" How long has it been under closure, may I know?"

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO:—" I think for nearly a year now."

SRI T. NAGI REDDI:—" Sir, may we know the reasons as to the closure of the factory and the steps that Government have been taking to reopen it once again?"

* THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO:—" Sir, the Metal Industries, Limited, Shoranur, were granted loans twice in 1948 under the provisions of the State Aid to Industries Act to the tune of Rs. 1,75,000 for the purchase of machinery. As it was brought to the notice of Government that the Company did not utilise the loan amounts for the purpose for which they were intended, viz., purchase of machinery, and that the company sold away, without the prior approval of Government, one machinery, hypothecated to Government as security for the loans the Government ordered the recovery of the entire loan due from the company. The Director of Industries and Commerce accordingly issued notices to the company on 10th April 1951 demanding the return of the outstanding amount. In the meanwhile, the company represented to Government that their action in having temporarily utilised a part of the loan amount for purposes other than purchase of machinery might be condoned and that they might be granted one year's time for the purchase of machinery. After examining the question in detail, the company was granted six months' time for the purchase of machinery or for the refund of the unutilized portion of the loan amount. As the company did not purchase any item of machinery even after the expiry of the six months'

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time allowed, the Government ordered that the proceedings already instituted against the company for the recovery of the entire loan amounts should be pursued.

The company again in August 1952 reported that they had made necessary arrangements for getting a loan of Rs. 3½ lakhs from a financier at Bombay and therefore requested the Government for issue of orders for staying the proceedings pending for the recovery of the loan. As it was found that the affairs of the company were in a bad state of way, that the financiers who previously came forward to take over the management were falling back, the Government issued orders for the attachment of the properties of the company hypothecated to Government against the loan. The properties have been attached under Section 28 of the Revenue Recovery Act with effect from 6th December 1952 and the Manager of the company has been duly informed by the notice of attachment served on him that unless the arrears with interest and expenses are paid up by 15th January 1953, the properties of the company will be brought to sale. It was subsequently reported that at the General Body meeting of the shareholders of the Metal Industries, Limited, Shoranur, held on 21st January 1953, the General Body resolved to accept the resignation of the existing Board of Directors including that of the Managing Director and that it was also resolved to accept the nomination of a new Board of Directors including Sri C. P. Karunakara Menon. In his letter, dated 21st January 1953, Sri Karunakara Menon has requested Government, among other things, to allow the books of the factory to be audited at once. The Government have examined the requests of Sri Karunakara Menon and have decided that the books of the company may be made available for the audit. That is the present stage. After looking into the accounts, it is hoped that the Directors or Sri Karunakara Menon will inform the Government whether the company will reopen the factory or not.''

MR. SPEAKER :—" I think this question came up before the House a few days ago. Next question.''

Salaries of the officers of the former Pudukkottai State Service.

* 208-C *Q.*—SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state— 8-40 a.m.

(*a*) why some officers of the former Pudukkottai State Service have been paid the Madras State salaries from 1st January 1949 and why others from 1st August 1949; and

(*b*) the departments where payment has been made from 1st January 1949 and departments where payments have been made from 1st August 1949?

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" (*a*) & (*b*) The date 1st August 1949 in the question is taken to be an error